

### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 14, 16-21 and 25-27 are pending in the present application. Claims 14, 16-17, 20-21 and 25-27 are amended; and Claims 1-13, 15, 22-24 and 28-34 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer by the present amendment. Support for the amended claims can be found in the original specification, claims and drawings.<sup>1</sup> No new matter is presented.

In the Office Action, Claims 14, 20 and 25-27 are objected to because of minor informalities; Claims 14-20 and 25-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Chan et al. (U.S. Pat. 6,965,893, herein Chan) in view of Sakata (U.S. Pat. 5,528,361); and Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Chan in view of Sakata and Harris (U.S. Pat. 6,912,621).

Regarding the outstanding objection to Claims 14, 20 and 25-27, these claims are each amended to address the informalities noted in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to Claims 14, 20 and 25-27 be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects Claims 14-20 and 25-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Chan in view of Sakata. In response to this rejection, Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent Claim 14 recites novel features clearly not taught or rendered obvious by the applied references.

Amended Claim 14 recites, in part, an image forming apparatus, comprising:

... a plurality of application programs performing respective processing of the plurality of application programs related to the image formation ...  
a shared-data control unit selecting one or more of the plurality of application programs as destinations of updating-start notification and notifying a start of updating of the shared data to the selected one or more application programs when acquisition and updating of the shared data is inhibited in response to a write-lock request received from one of the plurality

---

<sup>1</sup> e.g., specification at original Claim 15, Figs. 21-24 and p. 42, l. 8 – p. 49, l. 1.

of application programs, and the shared-data control unit notifying an end of the updating of the shared data to the selected application programs when the acquisition and updating of the shared data is allowed in response to an unlock request received from said one of the plurality of application programs, wherein

the plurality of application programs include one or more first application programs configured to display the shared data on the displaying device, and one or more second application programs configured to not display the shared data on the displaying device,

when the acquisition and updating of the shared data is inhibited in response to the write-lock request, the shared data control unit selects said one or more first application programs as destinations of the updating-start notification and notifies the start of updating of the shared data to said selected one or more first application programs without selecting said one or more second application programs and without notifying the start of the updating to said one or more second application programs, and

when the acquisition and updating of the shared data is allowed in response to the unlock request, the shared data control unit notifies the end of the updating of the shared data to the selected one or more first application programs without notifying the end of the updating of the shared data to said one or more second application programs.

As disclosed in an exemplary embodiment at p. 42, ll. 11-14 and Fig. 21 of the specification, the fax application 23 and the scanner application 24 may correspond to the claimed “first application programs” configured to display user information (e.g., “the shared data”) on the operation panel 70 (e.g., “the displaying device”). Moreover, the network file application 25 may correspond to one of the “second application programs” that does not display user information on the operation panel 70. The user information updating notice processing performed by the USC 37 corresponds to the above noted features directed to the operations performed by the “shared data control unit” recited in amended Claim 14.

Chan, the applied primary reference, describes techniques for managing resources that are accessible to a plurality of entities. More particularly, Chan describes that shared locks on a resource are granted more efficiently by maintaining data that is local to (e.g. on the same node as) each entity to indicate whether an exclusive lock has been granted on the resource to any entity of the plurality of entities.

Sakata, the secondary reference, describes an image forming apparatus capable of executing a plurality of functions simultaneously. The apparatus of Sakata includes an operating section for setting modes and displaying information, and a controller that causes a recording unit to print image data simultaneously and continuously.

Neither Chan nor Sakata, however, teach or suggest “when the acquisition and updating of the shared data is inhibited in response to the write-lock request, the shared data control unit selects said one or more first application programs as destinations of updating-start notification and notifies the start of updating of the shared data to said selected one or more first application programs without selecting said one or more second application programs and without notifying the start of the updating to said one or more second application programs” and “when the acquisition and updating of the shared data is allowed in response to the unlock request, the shared data control unit notifies the end of the updating of the shared data to the selected one or more first application programs without notifying the end of the updating of the shared data to said one or more second application programs” as recited in the amended independent Claim 14.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claim 14 (and Claims 16-20 and 25-27, which depend therefrom) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

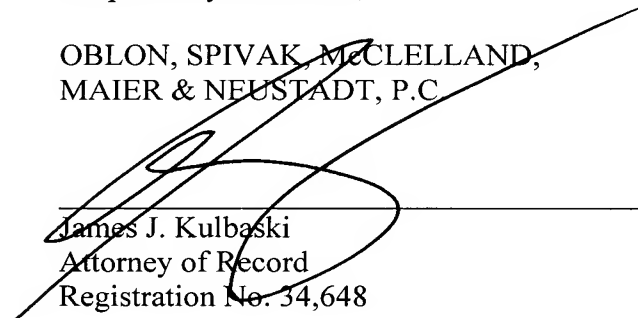
Regarding the rejection of Claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Chan in view of Sakata and Harris, Applicant notes that Claim 21 depends from Claim 14 and is believed to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed above. Moreover, Applicant respectfully submits that Harris fails to remedy the above noted deficiencies of Chan and Sakata.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 14, 16-21 and 25-27 is patentably distinguishing over the applied references. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of the application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



James J. Kulbaski  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 34,648

Customer Number

**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
(OSMMN 08/07)

Andrew T. Harry  
Registration No. 56,959